

From the Office of Military Requirements

From the office of the Military Requirements Subject Matter Specialist. Let me take a moment to introduce myself. My name is Rob Jeffries, Chief Damage Controlman. I took over the MRN Course Writer's job from DCC Chris Philbrook in March of 2003.

Two other important persons in the MRN system are Master Chief Gordy Yowell and Master Chief Tim Cary. MCPO Cary is the MRN program manager at Headquarters (G-WTL-2). He is responsible for providing policy guidance, direction and coordination of the service-wide functions necessary for the management and operation of the MRN system. MCPO Yowell is the Non Resident Design and Development Supervisor. He functions to oversee all the subject matter specialists located at training center Petaluma, and is the E8 – E9 service wide exam writer.

Why is Military Requirements considered an integral part of the Coast Guards performance system? The Coast Guard's Military Requirement system encompasses the standards of virtue embodied in the Core Values: Honor, Respect, and Devotion to Duty, in support of the oath of enlistment. The Military Requirements apply to all members of the Coast Guard and primarily these qualifications are made necessary by two factors. The basic requirements of duty in the Coast Guard and the requirements of fulfilling the obligations of the armed services. For example, all Coast Guard personnel must know certain elements of seamanship and must be prepared to carry out the service's missions: Lifesaving, Law Enforcement, Environmental Protection, and National Defense. We must learn the general standards for military justice and code of conduct, courtesies and ceremonies, possess certain skills and knowledge requisite to our own protection and survival. Importantly, we must also know the infrastructure of our organization, its principals of leadership, and our evaluation and advancement systems. Certain other qualifications, mainly in clerical and administrative duties, have been added to the Military Requirements because knowledge of them is important for all members regardless of occupational specialty.

In support of the MRN system:

It seems the two most frequently asked questions from the field are, ***“Where do you get those servicewide questions from?”*** and ***“What do I need to study for the MRN section of the servicewide exam?”*** The best thing I can say is to review the Military Requirements section of the Enlisted Qualifications Manual (COMDTINST M1414.8) series, and check out the MRN Web sight's reading lists. Remember, that you are not tested solely on the quals of the rank for which you are competing, **but all the quals up to and including that pay grade**. Also, if the manual references other instructions or texts you should review those as well. Also remember, if there is a reference manual that no longer exist then that area will not be tested on

TRACEN Petaluma is on the internet and so are all the rating Subject Matter Specialist. That's right! The address is: <http://www.uscg.mil/hq/tcpet/> Once you get to

the home page, select the [Subject Matter Specialist Pages](#), and you're on your way. We are currently in the development phase of new, easier to navigate web sights for all the SMS's here at TRACEN Petaluma, coming soon! Please understand having access to the internet does not give an unfair advantage over those who do not have access when studying for an EOCT or SWE. If you feel that you've just got to check this internet thing out, but don't have a computer, try a local library or community college. They usually have access at little or no cost.

A reminder, the MRN courses for E-4 thru E-7 (PO, SPO, CPO) have been suspended. See ALCOAST 335/01 for specifics. If you passed one of the old MRN courses you are not required to re-take a course, provided you received a passing test score. Example: PO3 Smith previously passed the old MRN E-5 test, she does not have to complete the MRN-SPO to sit for the E-5 SWE, but she will have to complete the course before competing for E-6 SWE. There is a Path of Advancement breakdown from the Personnel Manual located on the MRN Web Sight, but because the courses were suspended this has also changed. A person need only complete the required MRN performance quals! Of course, your rating quals and courses, time-in-grade etc...are still required for advancement eligibility.

The Future of the MRN:

The Military Requirements system is changing. It has been a long and complicated process, but when it is done it will be better. First is a name change. The MRN will become Professional Military Education (PME). A name that is well established and understood by the other armed services. A new guidebook is in development. A one-stop source for CG info and SWE study. New quals have been written and approved. All of this will be available on-line, CD-ROM, and paper base. The new PME system is a hybrid concept, disseminated to reach the largest number of people ashore, afloat, isolated duty, and everyone in between. Watch the MRN website for updates.

In closing, I'd like to remind everyone that if you submit a challenge from either end-of-course or servicewide exam, please include your return address, e-mail address (as this is how I will respond to most challenges), and name. I often get challenges that are impossible to respond to because I don't know who sent them or from where. There is now a handy format document located on the CG Institutes web page that will assist the ESO in filling out a challenge. Should you have any questions regarding Military Requirements material, please do not hesitate to contact me.

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